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HELSTON BOROUGH.

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR YEAR 1925.

3 Y.L. MOH

Physical Features and Social Conditions.

The Borough of Helston covers an area of 329 acres. The greater part of this lies on the south and west slopes of a hill running down to the valley of the Cober. A small portion of the town is built at the bottom of the hill very little above the level of the river. The town is the Market Town of a large agricultural district, and its main industry is supplying the needs of the inhabitants of that district.

Markets are held three days a week. A large Cattle Market is held on Mondays. Other market days are Wednesdays and Saturdays. Earle closing day is Friday. Helston is the centre for County Court and Petty Sessions, also for the Board of Guardians and the Rural District Council.

The number of inhabited houses in Helston is 745. The gross rateable value is £11,793.
Rateable value of buildings £9,105:10:0.
" " " land £727
Sum represented by 1d. rate equals £40.
The rate for 1925 was 12/8 in the £.

Vital Statistics.

The population is now estimated at 2647, a decrease of 37 since 1923. It will thus be seen that the average number of persons per occupied house is approximately 3.6.

In the estimation of the birth and death rates all "inward" and "outward" transfers have been dealt with and the rates given are the "Corrected Birth and Death Rates." The total number of births was 38, two of these being "inward transfers." This gives a birthrate of 14.35. The number of births for 1924 was 31 giving a birthrate of 11.49. During the year there were two illegitamate births.

Of 49 deaths which occured in the Borough 12 were "outward transferable," so that only 37 are credited to the borough. The corrected death rate is thus 13.97.
Deaths occured at the following ages.

4	between	65	and	69
4	"	70	and	74
4	"	75	"	79
9	"	80	"	84
3	"	85	"	89
2	"	90	"	95

This makes a total of 26 deaths over the age of 65.
Of children below the age of one year there was only one death, the cause being "prematurity." Of all the deaths, 6 were due to tuberculosis of respiratory system, 5 were due to cancer. There was one death from encephalitis lethargica. The other deaths were from various usual causes.

[illegible]

[illegible] for the year 1929.

[illegible]

The average [illegible] covers an area of 32[illegible] acres. The greater part of this lies on the south and west slopes of a hill stretching down to the valley to the south. A small portion of the town is built on the bottom of the hill very little above the level of the river. The town is the seat of a large agricultural district, and the main industry is supplying the needs of the [illegible] of such districts.

Markets are held three days a week. A large cattle market is held on Sunday. Other market days are [illegible] Saturday. Daily cleaning by [illegible] is strong. Pollution is the cause for [illegible] and [illegible] sanitation, also for the [illegible] of [illegible] and the [illegible].

The number of [illegible] cases [illegible] is [illegible]. The gross [illegible] value is [illegible].
[illegible] value of buildings [illegible]:10.
" " land [illegible]
Sum [illegible] by 10. [illegible].
The rate for 1929 was 1[illegible] in the £.

Vital Statistics.

The population is [illegible] at [illegible], a decrease of [illegible] since 1921. It will thus be seen that the average number of persons per occupied house is approximately 5.6.

In the examination of the sites [illegible] "Inner" and "Outer" districts have been dealt with and the [illegible] are the "Infectious Illness and Death Rates". The total number of [illegible] was 30, two of these being "Inner districts". This gives a birthrate of 14.3. The number of births for 1924 was 31 giving a birthrate of 14.4. Adding the [illegible] the [illegible] birthrate.

Of 49 deaths which occurred in the borough 12 were "Inner districts", so that only 37 are credited to the borough. The corrected death rate is thus 13.4.
Deaths occurred at the following ages.

4 between 2 and 5	
4 " 10 and 15	
4 " 20 " 25	
2 " 30 " 35	
2 " 40 " 45	
2 " 50 " 55	
2 " 70 " 75	

This gives a total of 20 deaths over the age of 60.
Of children below the age of one year there was only one death, he died from "prematurity". Of all the deaths, 3 were due to tuberculosis of respiratory system, 7 were due to cancer. There was death from encephalitis lethargica. No other deaths were from various usual causes.

Infectious Diseases.

There were 12 cases of notifiable diseases, 11 of these were scarlet fever and the other Erysipelas.

Tubercular Disease.(2)

The Sanatorium at Tehidy receives for treatment all cases of pulmonary tuberculosis which are considered suitable for treatment therein.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

There have been no cases during the year.

Vaccination

The number of vaccination Cases is still decreasing, owing to the increase use of exemption orders. In many cases, I am convinced that "conscientious scruples" are non-existent, the real reason being dislike to a little extra trouble. The Ministry of Health is most anxious to have vaccination carried out as thoroughly as possible and this can only be done by greater care in the giving of exemption orders by those in power to do so.

Fortunately there has not been an epidemic of Smallpox in Helston for the past 50 years: and one would like to see a continuation of this immunity from the dread disease.

General and Special Enquiries.

Speaking generally, the sanitation of the town is as good as good as can be expected under existing conditions. All occupied houses appear to be in a good state of repair inside and out and are in a proper tenantable condition.

Water Supply.

The water supply of the town is partially provided by the Helston & Porthleven Water Company. The supply, however, has latterly been inadequate for the needs of the whole town. There have been numerous complaints recently from the occupiers of houses in the upper parts of Godolphin Road, in Clodgy Land and in Beacon Terrace in respect of the inadequacy of their supply. This is a matter which ought to receive attention at an early date. The only other source of water supply is by public pumps and springs totalling seven in number.

Samples of water were taken during the summer months and analysed by the County Analyst. The samples were taken from the pumps at Porthleven Road, The Horse & Jockey abd Cross Street, also from the Company's mains. The report on all four was satisfactory.

Rivers and Streams.

Helston is one of the few English towns provided with paved water courses, running along each side of the main streets of the town. These courses are known locally as "kennels", and the water is supplied by a "leat" taken off the Cober a few miles above the town.

The Coronation Lake is as popular as ever and boating and bathing were in full swing during the summer months.

Infectious Diseases.

There were 12 cases of notifiable diseases, 11 of these were scarlet fever and the other diphtheria.

Insanitary Diseases.(2)

The determination of insanitary premises for structural defects or insufficiency insanitary conditions which are considered suitable for treatment therein.

Unhealthy Premises.

There have been no cases during the year.

Vaccination

The number of vaccination cases is still decreasing, owing to the increase use of exemption certificates. In many cases, I am convinced that 'conscientious objectors' are non-existent, the real reason being attitude to a little extra trouble. The ministry of Health in most circulars to date vaccination officers can be encouraged as possible and this can only be done by greater care in the giving of exemption certificates by those in power to do so.

Fortunately there has not been an epidemic of smallpox in Belgium for the past 50 years: but one would like to see a continuation of this immunity from the above disease.

Mortuary and Special Buildings.

Speaking generally, the sanitation of the town is as good as good as can be expected under existing conditions. All occupied houses appear to be in a good state of repair inside and out and are in a proper sanitary condition.

Water Supply.

The water supply of the town is partially provided by the Nelson & District Water Company. The supply, however, was totally inadequate for the needs of the whole town. There have been numerous complaints recently from the occupiers of houses in the upper parts of Scotsmuir Road, in Gloucy Lane and in Barton Terrace in respect of the inadequacy of water supply. There is a matter which ought to receive attention as it easily does. The only other source of water supply is by public pumps and springs supplying water in water.

Samples of water were taken during the summer months and analysed by the County Analyst. The samples were taken from the pumps at Ferrielower Road, the House & Jockey and Cross Street, and from the Company's mains. The report on all four was satisfactory.

Rivers and Streams.

Nelson is one of the few English towns provided with piped water courses, running along each side of the main streets of the town. These courses are known locally as "runnels" and the water is supplied by a "leat" taken off the Clyde a few miles above the town.

The population here is as popular as ever and cooking and bathing were in full swing during the summer months.

Drainage and Sewage Disposal.

1. By Sewers. These sewers serve about 160 water-closets and also receive the effluents from the septic tanks at the Workhouse and the County School.

745 houses

2. By Cesspools. About 40 houses are supplied with water-closets which empty into Cesspools. These are cleaned out when required.

3. By Privy pits and Ash pits. There about 400 of these in the Borough. They are systematically cleaned out by contract when notice is received that this is necessary.

4. By Pail system. Some of the newer houses in the town are provided with the pail system of sanitation. the pails are emptied, cleansed and disinfected weekly.

5. The Public Urinals and Public waterclosets are kept clean and in good condition.

The Sanitary Inspector has recently spent a great deal of time in planning a suitable Sewerage System capable of meeting the requirements of the whole town. As a considerable part of the town now lies outside the Borough Boundaries, such a system is not practicable until the Borough Boundaries be extended to embrace the outlying parts of the town. This system, if adopted, would be of tremendous benefit and no time ought to be lost in making a start in this direction.

There is a daily house-to-house collection of rubbish, the expense of this collection being borne by the Council. All the refuse is conveyed in the Council's covered cart to the depot which is about a mile from the town and outside the Borough. Street Scavenging is carried out in a satisfactory manner.

Schools.

The sanitation of the County and Elementary Schools is in very good condition.

Hospitals.

Hospital Accommodation is provided by the Helston & District Cottage Hospital, which has now been in existence for over three years. This hospital was erected by Public Subscription as a War Memorial and has already proved itself invaluable.

The two public wards (male and female) accommodate 5 beds each with space in each for an additional cot. There are two private wards each containing one bed. Patients are assessed according to their ~~financial~~ financial circumstances, in some cases no charge being made. It is to be regretted that as yet the Hospital has not been equipped with an Xray plant, but we hope to see this need supplied in the near future. Financially the Hospital is in a sound position.

There is no Isolation in the Borough or District for dealing with acute infectious diseases.

Premises and Sewage Disposal.

1. At Sebeka. These sewers serve about 100 water-closets and also receive the effluents from the septic tanks at the Northcote and the County School.

2. At Deerwood. About 40 houses are supplied with water-closets which empty into cesspools. These are cleaned out when required.

3. At Fifty Lake and Bertha. These about 400 of these in the district. They are usually cleaned out by contract when notice is received that this is necessary.

4. By Pail System. Some of the newer houses in the town are provided with the pail system of sanitation. The pails are emptied, cleansed and disinfected weekly.

5. The Public Urinals and Public waterclosets are kept clean and in good condition.

The Sanitary Inspector has recently spent a great deal of time in planning a suitable sewerage system capable of meeting the requirements of the whole town. In a commercial part of the town the line outside the property boundaries, such a system is not practicable until the Corporation be obliged to extend the outlying parts of the town. This system, if adopted, would be of advantage generally and is thought to be left in working a start in this direction.

There is a daily house-to-house collection of refuse, the expense of this collection being borne by the Council. All the refuse is conveyed in the Council's covered cart to the depot which is about a mile from the town and outside the Sewage Farm. Without destroying it carried out in a satisfactory manner.

Schools.

The sanitation of the County and Elementary Schools is in very good condition.

Hospitals.

Hospital accommodation is provided by the Sebeka Township Hospital, which has 10 beds in addition for men and 10 beds. This hospital was erected by the Government as a war memorial and has already proved itself invaluable.

The two public baths (male and female) accommodate 3 bath and ample space in each for an attendant and. There are two private baths each containing one bath. Patients are admitted according to their ordinary financial circumstances, in some cases no charge being made. It is to be regretted that as yet the hospital has not been equipped with an X-ray plant, but we hope to see this soon supplied in the near future. Financially the hospital is in a sound position.

There is no isolation in the borough or district for dealing with some infectious diseases.

Ambulance.

A long felt want has now been supplied by the formation of an Ambulance Brigade under the auspices of the St. John's Ambulance Association. The members of the Brigade give their services voluntarily and often respond to calls of great inconvenience to themselves. They attend the Lectures regularly and take great interest in their work. A commodious Ambulance Station consisting of a good garage and a large, well lighted lecture room has been erected in Wendron Street.

The Ambulance has already been used extensively for the transport of non-infectious and accident cases in the district and borough. It has also been used on a number of occasions to transfer patients to Truro for "Radiographic Examinations." As the present Ambulance does not provide the acme of comfort for the transportee, it is hoped soon to replace it by a newer and better one.

Nursing and Midwifery.

The Nursing Association provides the services of a qualified Queen's nurse for the town. As the nurse holds the certificate of the C.M.B. she undertakes all midwifery cases to which she is called and also gives ante and post natal advice.

Diphtheria.

The Town Council pays for the examination of swabs of suspected cases of diphtheria and also for diphtheria antitoxin when used for poor people. We have been fortunate in having no diphtheria cases during the past year.

Infant Mortality.

It is a matter for congratulation that of children under the age of one year, there was only one death.

Food Supply.

Dairies. The Dairies have been regularly inspected and found to be in a clean and well-kept condition.

Bakehouses. These are kept in a satisfactory condition.

Slaughterhouses. These have also been regularly inspected and it is satisfactory to report that all suggested improvements have been carried out.

Statistics concerning Slaughterhouses.

	In 1920	Jan 1925	Dec. 1925.
Registered	11	10	2
Licensed	0	0	7
Total	11	10	9

Workshops and Workplaces.

Inspection revealed that these were in good condition and possessed proper sanitary accommodation.

Ambulance.

A long felt want has now been supplied by the formation of an Ambulance Brigade under the auspices of the Town's Ambulance Association. The members of the Brigade give their services voluntarily and often forgone to cells of great inconvenience to themselves. They should be backed heartily and this great interest in their work. A commodious Ambulance Station consisting of a good garage and a large, well lighted lecture room has been erected in Warren Street.

The Ambulance has already been used extensively for the transport of non-infectious and accidental cases in the district and outside. It has also been used on a number of occasions to transfer patients to Trans for "Radiography" or Tuberculosis. As the present Ambulance does not provide the room of comfort for the transportee, it is hoped soon to replace it by a newer and better one.

Nursing and Midwifery.

The Nursing Association provides the services of a qualified Queen's Nurse for the town. In the Nurse holds no certificate of the G.N.A. She undertakes all midwifery cases in which she is called and also gives the best of her spare moments.

Hydrants.

The Town Council pays for the examination of water of suspected cases of diphtheria and also for diphtheria antitoxin when used for poor people. We have been informed in having no diphtheria cases during the past year.

Infant Mortality.

It is a matter for congratulation that of children under the age of one year, there was only one death.

Food Supply.

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Slaughterhouses. These are kept in a satisfactory condition.

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Sanitary Inspection Miscellaneous.

	In 1920	Jan 1921	Dec. 1921.
Registered	11	10	8
Interned	0	0	1
Total	11	10	9

Notices and Prosecutions.

Inspection reveals that these work is good condition and possesses proper sanitary accommodation.

Lodging House.

The Only common Lodging House in the town is kept in as good condition as can be expected.

Sanitary Administration.

This is effaciently carried on by the Sanitary Inspector who supervises the work of the Borough employees.

Rainfall.

The rainfall for 1925 was 44.71 ins. this was 8.36 ins. less than in 1924, when the rainfall was 53.07 ins.

Thanks are due to J.W.Tyacke, Esq. for these figures.

In presenting this report the m.O.H. would like to point out that the Ministry of Health has asked for this report to be a survey of the past five years showing what progress has been made during that period. Whilst he has made his report as comprehensive as possible, he hopes he may be pardoned for any lack of detail , as he has only been resident in Helston for a few months, the Council will realise his difficulties in presenting a Survey Report complete in all details.

Finally the M.O.H. wishes to express his thanks to the Mayor the Town Council and the Borough Officials for their sympathetic consideration of any proposals brought forward for the betterment of the town.

(Signed) J.P.Michael.

Medical Officer of Health.

Housing Codes.

The only common housing codes in the town is kept in as good condition as can be expected.

Sanitary Inspection.

This is efficiently carried on by the sanitary inspector who supervises the work of the sanitary employees.

Hospital.

The hospital for 1950 was 44.41 lbs. This was 6.30 lbs. less than in 1949, when the hospital was 50.71 lbs.

Thanks are due to J. Lyons, Esq. for these figures.

In presenting this report the M.O.H. would like to point out that the lack of health has made for this report to be a survey of the past five years during most progress has been made only one period. Whilst he has made his report as comprehensive as possible, he hopes it may be found to be of lack of material, as he has only been resident in Polgooth for a few months, the council will realise the difficulties in giving this a survey report complete in all details.

Finally, the M.O.H. wishes to express his thanks to the Mayor the town council and the various officials for their sympathetic consideration of any proposals brought forward for the betterment of the town.

(Signed) J.I.Michael.

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR

THE YEAR 1925, FOR THE BOROUGH OF HELSTON..

on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act 1901, in connection with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces. including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises	Number of Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories. . . . . (including Factory Laundries)	6	nil	nil
Workshops. . . . . (Including Workshop Laundries)	21	nil	nil
Workplaces. . . . . (other than outworkers premises)	-	-	-
Total	27	-	-

2. DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

	Number of defects.			Number of offences in respect to which prosecutiond were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Reffered to H.M. Inspector	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts.				
Want of cleanliness.	nil			
Want of ventilation.	nil			
Overcrowding	nil			
Want of drainage of floors . . .	nil			
Other Nuisances	nil			
Sanitary Accommodation; Insufficient	nil	nil	nil	nil
Unsuitable or defective. . .	nil	nil	nil	
Not separate for sexes . .	nil	nil	nil	
Offences under the Factory and Workmen Acts.				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses	nil	nil	nil	
Other Offences.	nil	nil	nil	
Total	nil	nil	nil	nil

REPORT BY THE CHIEF INSPECTOR OF FACTORIES ON WORKING UNDER THE FACTORY ACT, 1926, FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER.

on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act 1901, in Victoria with

Particulars required by Regulations.

1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces. Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises	Number of Inspections	Number of Premises visited	Number of Premises inspected.
Factories. . . . . (including Factory laundries)	3	nil	nil
Workshops. . . . . (including Workshop laundries)	21	nil	nil
Workplaces. . . . . (other than outworkers premises)	-	-	-
Total	27	-	-

2. Defects found in premises inspected and notified.

	Number of Defects.			Number of defects remedied in response to Inspection
	Found	Remedied	Notified to Sanitary Inspector	
Nuisances under the Public Health Act.				
Want of cleanliness.	nil			
Want of ventilation.	nil			
Overcrowding	nil			
Want of drainage of floors . . .	nil			
Other nuisances	nil			
Sanitary Accommodation; insufficient	nil	nil	nil	nil
Unsuitable or unreserve . .	nil	nil	nil	
Not separate for sexes . .	nil	nil	nil	
Offences under the Factory and Shop Act.				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse	nil	nil	nil	
Other Offences.	nil	nil	nil	
Total	nil	nil	nil	nil

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT. 1925.

Housing.

During the year a number of houses were inspected by the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector. In certain cases minor repairs were ordered and carried out, principally leaky roofs, defective drains and covers to pits.

Twelve new houses under the Housing Scheme have been built by the Council.

Plans for four additional houses by private enterprise have been passed by the Council under the Housing Act for which a subsidy will be given.

Refuse cleaning.

The dust cart is employed and pails emptied daily. Pails being supplied by the Council.

Pits.

These are cleaned by Contract, the cost of this work amounted to £176 (equal to 4½ rate). The disinfecting is carried out by the Corporation workmen once a week during the summer months.

Slaughterhouses etc.

The S.H. drains, cowsheds and public Urinals etc. were regularly visited and are kept in a very good order. During the year 7 licenses were issued to slaughterhouse holders under the new meat regulations.

Regarding these regulations all requests made to Butchers have been complied with and no meat is exposed to dust and dirt.

Systematic visits are paid to the Slaughter houses during the progress of killing; all meat condemned is either burned at the Gas Works or buried at Castle Wary.

Bakehouses.

These are kept clean and wholesome and ovens heated by steam.

Water Supply.

Four separate samples of water were sent for Analysis, all of which were reported on favourably.

(Signed) W.J.Crute.

Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT. 1927.

General.

During the year a number of nuisances were inspected by the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector. In certain cases other reports were created for various ends, principally land, roads, effective sights are covered in plan.

Twelve new houses under the housing scheme were over built by the council.

There is now additional housing by private enterprise more been passed by the council under the housing act for which a subsidy will be given.

Water closets.

The ash cart is employed regularly carried daily. Pails being supplied by the council.

Pig.

These are cleaned by contract, the cost of this work amounts to £1/0 (equal to 4d year). The disinfecting is carried out by the corporation workmen once a week during the summer months.

Dis-infectants etc.

The D.H. vicline, cowmuck and jeyes fluids etc. are regularly utilized and are kept in a very good order. During the year 7 houses were issued to disinfectants orders under the new sect regulations.

Regarding those regulations all requests made to landlords have been complied with and it is proposed to send out circulars.

By certain visits are made to the disinfect houses during the progress of sanitary; all more convenience is closed during the use which is carried on public way.

Dwellings.

These are kept clean and nuisances are always remedied by owners.

Water supply.

Now separate supplies of water are available for families, all of which are supplied by Tredegar.

(Signed) W.J.Thomas.

Sanitary Inspector.

Tabular Statement of General Inspections carried out by the Sanitary Inspector for the year ending December 1936.

Number of houses built.	22
Have building Bye-Laws been adopted.	Yes.
Dwelling houses disinfected after cases of ordinary infectious desease.	4
Dwelling houses found overcrowded.	None.
Dwelling houses disinfected after cases of pthisis.	1
Privies converted in W.C's.	12.
Privies converted into pail closets.	None.
Offensive trades inspected (no offensive trades in Hedon).	None.

Water Supplies.

Houses newly supplied from water mains. No samples of water were sent for examination and now new wells or bore wells were made.	22.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

Regulations were adopted prior to 1913, but these will be revoked under the Milk and Dairies Order 1926, and no new regulations have been adopted.

Number of Dairies and Cowsheds on the register.	8.
Number of cows.	72.
Visits to cowsheds.	15.
Defects found.	None.

Slaughter houses.

Number on register.	2.
Number of visits.	4.
Defects found.	None.

No unwholesome food was condemned by the Hedon Corporation, and there are no registered common lodging houses within the Borough.

John J. Fisher, L.R.I.B.A., P.A.S.I.,
M.Inst.M & Cy. E., M.R.San.I.

Borough Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector.